

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 OIC-04 SIL-01

AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 /225 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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TAGS: EAID, UNDP, UNCTAD, GATT

SUBJECT: UNDP PROJECT INT/70/073/ A/01/40 - ADVISORY

SERVICES FOR MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: USUN 99

USUN IS REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT TO THE UNDP FOLLOWING USG
COMMENTS ON SUBJECT PROJECT:

1. THE US GOVERNMENT IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE BASIC OBJEC-
TIVES OF THE UNCTAD PROPOSAL, I. E., TO PROVIDE ADVISORY
SERVICES TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SO THAT THEY MAY
PARTICIPATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THE UPCOMING MULTILATERAL
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TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, AS EVIDENCED JUST A MONTH AGO BY ITS SUPPORT OF ECLA RESOLUTION 326 (XV) ON PREPARATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE CERTAIN RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED, ESPECIALLY INsofar AS IT RELATES TO SIMILAR SERVICES ALREADY BEING PROVIDED BY OR AVAILABLE FROM THE GATT SECRETARIAT.

2. WE WOULD PREFER, FOR REASONS OF EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY, THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT BE EXECUTED JOINTLY BY UNCTAD AND GATT, AND WE SUGGEST THAT UNDP ATTEMPT TO REVISE THE PROJECT IN THIS MANNER. IF SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION IS NOT NOW FEASIBLE, WE URGE THAT UNCTAD ENSURE THE HIGHEST

POSSIBLE DEGREE OF COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH GATT IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT. WHATEVER TERMS OF COLLABORATION ARE AGREED TO SHOULD BE IN WRITING IN A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNCTAD TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF GATT.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GATT SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHICH, IF ANY, OF THE FUNCTIONS PROPOSED UNDER THIS PROJECT ARE ALREADY BEING PERFORMED BY IT (OR ARE READILY AVAILABLE FROM IT). IT IS OUR VIEW, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE QUANTITATIVE DATA AND INFORMATION ON TRADE BARRIERS WHICH COULD BE DEVELOPED UNDER THIS PROPOSAL ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE GATT.

4. LIKewise THERE ARE MANY COMMODITY STUDIES WHICH HAVE BEEN PREPARED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNCTAD, FAO AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. THE PROLIFERATION OF SUCH STUDIES AND PROPOSALS FOR SUCH STUDIES IN UNCTAD MAY ALREADY HAVE EXCEEDED THEIR USEFULNESS AND DEMAND.

5. WITH RESPECT TO ADVISORY SERVICES TO GOVERNMENTS, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS, WE BELIEVE REQUESTS FOR SUCH SERVICES SHOULD COME ONLY FROM GOVERNMENTS WHICH PERCEIVE A SPECIFIC NEED FOR THEM AND EXTEND A FORMAL REQUEST, RATHER THAN FROM AN AGENCY WHICH PROPOSES TO SET UP THE SERVICES AND THEN SEEK CUSTOMERS. ON THIS ISSUE OF AN " ADVISORY SERVICE" (AS OPPOSED TO " ADVISORY UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVICES") SIMILAR PROPOSALS BY THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT FAILED TO RECEIVE APPROVAL IN SANTIAGO.

6. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, WE SUGGEST RECONSIDERATION OF THE PROJECT' S PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND EQUIPMENT COMPONENTS, WHICH APPEAR TOO HIGH.

7. WE ALSO HAVE RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE PROJECT' S PROPOSED DURATION. GIVEN THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1975 AND THE STRONG PROSPECT THAT THEY WILL LAST THROUGH ALL OF 1975 WE BELIEVE THAT THE UNDP PROJECT SHOULD RUN FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS RATHER THAN TWO YEARS AS NOW PROPOSED. WITH THE PRESENT DURATION, WE EXPECT THAT UNCTAD WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR EXTENSION OF THE PROJECT BEYOND JUNE 30, 1975. WE WOULD OPPOSE AN UPWARD ADJUSTMENT IN THE COST OF THE PROJECT, SINCE, AS STATED ABOVE, WE ARE DOUBTFUL OF UNCTAD' S ABILITY TO UTILIZE EVEN THE LEVEL OF RESOURCES NOW REQUESTED WITH FULL EFFECTIVENESS.

8. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO DISRUPTION HIRING FOR THIS PROJECT. SPECIFICALLY, THERE SHOULD BE NO HIRING OF GATT OR OTHER PERSONNEL NOW ENGAGED IN ACTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. RUSH

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